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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 8 October 1948

SUBJECT SMA and DWK Influence in Saxony-Anhalt

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1C

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NO. OF ENCLS. 3
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1. It is clear in Saxony-Anhalt, even in Landtag circles, that the legislative bodies of the Land, the counties, and the communities are gradually losing their significance. Land parliaments have little left to do since DWK received the right to pass laws, and all legislation is being shifted to Land level. The minister-president, similarly, is considered only the deputy of SMA and the DWK, although he is nominally head of the planning office, the control committee, and the office for distribution of materials. Land comments that all distinction between autonomous functions and state functions will be completely abandoned and only "people's administration" used as soon as the Russians feel that this can safely be done. At least 80 percent of all country and community administrative functions are now controlled by the state or Berlin.

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2. Examples of the dominance of SMA in various Land affairs are cited
 - a. The Landtag of Saxony-Anhalt on 7 February 1948 decreed the readmission of sports clubs and requested measures for their reactivation. Minister Siewert, however, held up the action because he received an SMA statement on 29 April 1948 that SMA was still considering the question and the conditions for admitting sports clubs.
 - b. SMA, through its financial expert Ptukhin, ordered punishment for price delinquents as follows: first penalty, the amount of the overcharge; second penalty, double the overcharge; third penalty, possibly closing the business. In this way, if anyone wanted to eliminate a business competitor, he had only to report him for overcharging. Interest appeared to extend particularly to hotels, where men fit for military service were picked up in police raids, even if they had adequate credentials.
 - c. The press reported that the minister-president had advocated a peace treaty instead of an occupation statute in a discussion of the Peace Committee of the Volksrat. Although the minister-president had attended the meeting, he had not participated in the discussion. A letter of protest to Nuschke resulted in a correction, but many similar cases of deliberate, false reporting were never acknowledged or corrected.

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- d. Government officials are allowed to go over the heads of ministers directly to SMA. Even Minister Siewert complained of this practice.
3. Strict regulation of contacts with the western zones was implemented by two different offices of zonal administrations, at the desire of SMA. Dissemination of information orally or in writing to any agent or office in the western zones was prohibited without express approval of the chief of DWK. Inquiries from the West concerning all political, economic-political, or statistical information were to be referred to the German Administration of the Interior for approval. (Texts of the two decrees are given in Attachments A and B.) There was some discussion among Land officials on whether, as suggested by Minister of Interior Siewert, there might later be more decentralization, so that permission would come in most cases from the Land Minister of Interior. [REDACTED] 25X1A by-passes the minister president and leaves the control solidly with the Ministry of Interior, which is staffed by strictly "reliable" Communist personnel.) The effect is the complete cutting off of the western zones from any contact with the Eastern Zone except under stringent controls.
4. In Order No. 32, SMA gave the DWK permission to issue directives and instructions binding on all German organs in the Russian Zone. In a letter of 14 April 1948, DWK asked SMA Germany to extend to it the right also of issuing legal ordinances. To this request SMA acceded on 20 April 1948, and DWK was empowered to issue decrees with the material character of laws for the entire Russian Zone and its population (Attachment C). The secretary of the Landtag of Saxony-Anhalt reported that the DWK had instructed the Landtag to issue a law and that the states of the Russian Zone were to become provinces again, with a provincial chief at their head and bare administrative autonomy.

Attachments:

- A Official Communication No. 13/48
 B Circular No. 2/48
 C Decree S 15/48

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